

Remarks

In the Office Action mailed December 17, 2003:

1. Claim 7 was objected to; and
2. Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,881,251 (Fung).

I. Fung (U.S. Patent No. 5,881,251)

Fung Does Not Employ a Switch Between a Load and Power for the Load

In one or more embodiments of the present invention (e.g., claims 1, 4, 11, 12, 17), a switch element for disabling powering of a load is in-line with the power connection for the load (see Figures 2-3 of the present application). That is, the switch element is positioned between the power connector and the load.

In contrast, in Fung, a switch circuit 50 is positioned between a board load and ground, and the load is connected directly to the power connector (Fig. 1; Fig. 2). The switch circuit may be considered to be positioned between the load and soft start connector 42, but the power supplied through the soft start connector does not power the load. Therefore, Fung appears to teach away from Applicants' configuration.

II. Selected Claims

A. Claims 1-3

Claim 1 was amended to more clearly indicate that the switch element may be positioned inline between a load of the electronic module and the power that powers the load.

B. Claims 4-6

Claim 4 was amended to more clearly indicate that the switch may be positioned inline between a load of the electronic module and the power for the load.

C. Claims 7-10

Claims 7-10 were cancelled, without prejudice.

D. Claim 11

Claim 11 was amended to more clearly indicate that the apparatus may be positioned inline between a load and the voltage source for powering the load.

E. Claims 12-16

Claim 12 was amended to more clearly indicate that the switch may be positioned electrically inline between a component load and power for operating the load.

F. Claims 17-21

The method of claim 17 was amended to specify that a switch is positioned between a load of the electronic module and the voltage connector supplying power to the load.

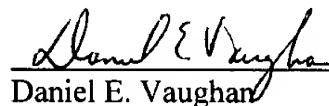
CONCLUSION

No new matter has been added with the preceding amendments. It is submitted that the application is in suitable condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested. If prosecution of this application may be facilitated through a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorney identified below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 20, 2004

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